

REMARKS

Claims 7 and 9-13 are currently pending in the above-referenced application.

The Examiner rejects actual claims in view of Furukawa document (JP '517). He argues that Furukawa shows an electrical contact enclosing a contact layer in the form of a gradient layer composed of an alloy. However, Furukawa does not show any gradient layer at all. Therefore, the claims should be allowable in view of Furukawa.

It is therefore respectfully submitted that all of the presently pending claims are in allowable condition. All issues raised by the Examiner having been addressed, an early and favorable action on the merits is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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